

Appl. No. 09/701,777
Amdt. dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office action of February 5, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12 are present in the application. Claims 1 and 7 are amended herein. New claims 13 and 14 are added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Karaki (U.S. 5,699,492) in view of Klassen (U.S. 5,515,479) and Albosta et al (U.S. 4,908,638). Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Karaki (U.S. 5,699,492) in view of Klassen (U.S. 5,515,479) and Albosta et al (U.S. 4,908,638) and further in view of Mizutani (U.S. 5,774,146). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Karaki, the principal reference employed in the rejections, is not attempting to solve the problem that applicant is solving. Karaki is concerned with issues related to using pure black or composite black made from color inks, and does various processing on black areas to decide whether to use pure black or composite black composed from C, M and Y inks. Applicant's claimed invention, in contrast, is concerned splash reduction, and, in certain aspects, with black only, not with color inks. The present application notes on page 7, lines 10-11, that this embodiment applies only to black, because the issue of image quality degradation due to splashes is less conspicuous for colors other than black.

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Note also that Karaki does not mention the word splash (nor do either of the other documents the Examiner relies on (Klassen and Albosta and Mizutani)).

Karaki is only concerned with the issue of deciding when to use composite black (C M Y) or pure black ink. It does not appreciate the issue that applicant is trying to solve related to splash prevention.

Also, applicant respectfully believes that the Examiner's characterization of what Karaki is teaching is not warranted. The Examiner says that Karaki discloses that data indicates a drawing of a thick line or filled in area in col. 2, lines 26-34. However, what is discussed in this portion of Karaki is related to whether to use color inks or pure black ink. The document is discussing black areas vs. color areas, not thick line or filled in area.

Further, applicant respectfully submits that there is not a valid motivation to combine these documents, either, since the Examiner is applying a single color high speed mode of Albosta to a device concerned with applying a single ink black or a composite black using color inks.

The specification of the present application notes on page 7, lines 10-11, that this embodiment applies only to black, because the issue of image quality degradation due to splashes is less conspicuous for colors other than black.

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While it is believed that this was inherently clear previously, applicant includes here claim amendments to claims 1 and 7 adding language that indicates that the claim is directed to the result of splash reduction or prevention. This further clarifies that the purpose of the applicant's invention of splash reduction is not mentioned nor even considered in the cited documents.

Further, new claims 13 and 14 are added that recite that the invention relates to black ink. These claims further distinguish from the Karaki color ink situation.

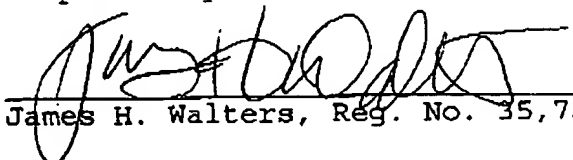
It is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the other documents into Karaki, since it is concerned with different issues, and it is applicant's teaching that raises the issues, not the teaching of the prior art. Therefore, the motivation to combine is not present in the prior art.

Even if the documents were combined, applicant's claimed invention would not thereby be produced.

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In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

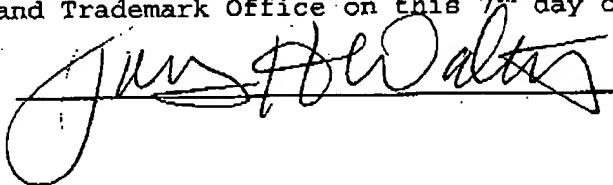
Respectfully submitted,


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